



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2007
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CHESTERFIELD AREA MAN SENTENCED
FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ST. LOUIS, Missouri - Vishal Sehjpai was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison for possession of child pornography, U.S. Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway, of the Eastern District of Missouri announced today.

On November 1, 2004, Sehjpai brought his Sony Laptop Computer to a Best Buy store. In examining the computer, the technician observed images of what he believed to be child pornography and notified the Chesterfield Police Department. Sehjpai consented to the search of his computer by the police and provided 30 additional computer CDs. Sehjpai admitted that he had downloaded images of child pornography over the internet over the past six months. Some of these images depicted a minor under the age of twelve engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Sehjpai, 22, 1700 block of Stifel, Chesterfield, Missouri pled guilty in February to two felony counts of possession of child pornography, and appeared today for sentencing before United States District Judge Rodney W. Sippel.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

Hanaway commended the work on the case by the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Regional Computer Crimes Education and Enforcement Group, and Assistant United States Attorneys Hal Goldsmith and Carrie Costantin, who handled the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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